



Inspection and Testing Q&As

1. Do federal boilers or pressure vessels fall under SPS 341, Boilers and Pressure Vessels Code?

Answer: No, those federal devices are exempted from state and local inspections. The federal government provides their own inspection criteria and adopted standards.

2. Are yearly boiler inspections necessary, regardless of whether or not the boiler was operated?

Answer: Inspections are necessary. Any boiler, even stand-by boilers connected for "occasional" operation in a system, must be in compliance with SPS 341.17, which requires internal inspection every 12 months, and SPS 341.24, which requires the owner to obtain and maintain a valid permit to operate. If the boiler is not to be operated, it should be completely disconnected electrically **and mechanically with supply, return, feed, and fuel piping capped or blank flanged from the system.**

3. I need to change the location of my boiler. What is required?

Answer: A moved vessel is considered a secondhand vessel. Whether it is moved between states or moved on/in the same location it will fall under SPS 341.75(1) second-hand vessels, requiring a hydrostatic pressure test at 1-1/2 times the maximum allowable working pressure at its new point of installation location before being placed into operation.

4. Why does a state employed inspector inspect a boiler, and later in the same month, an insurance inspector may inspect the same boiler?

Answer: Wisconsin allows certain specific insurance companies (Service Agents) to conduct inspections on behalf of the state, and issue the Permit To Operate (PTO) or issue orders to get that boiler in compliance with the code. A state inspector may conduct the inspection of a boiler, and bill accordingly, if the PTO has been expired 30 days or longer. Once the Department of Safety and Professional Services sends an owner a Notice of Inspection (NOI), usually 60 days before the PTO expires, an owner should contact the inspector of record, which will usually be a insurance company, and make an appointment to get that boiler inspected. The contact information for a state-employed inspector or the service agent is on the NOI.